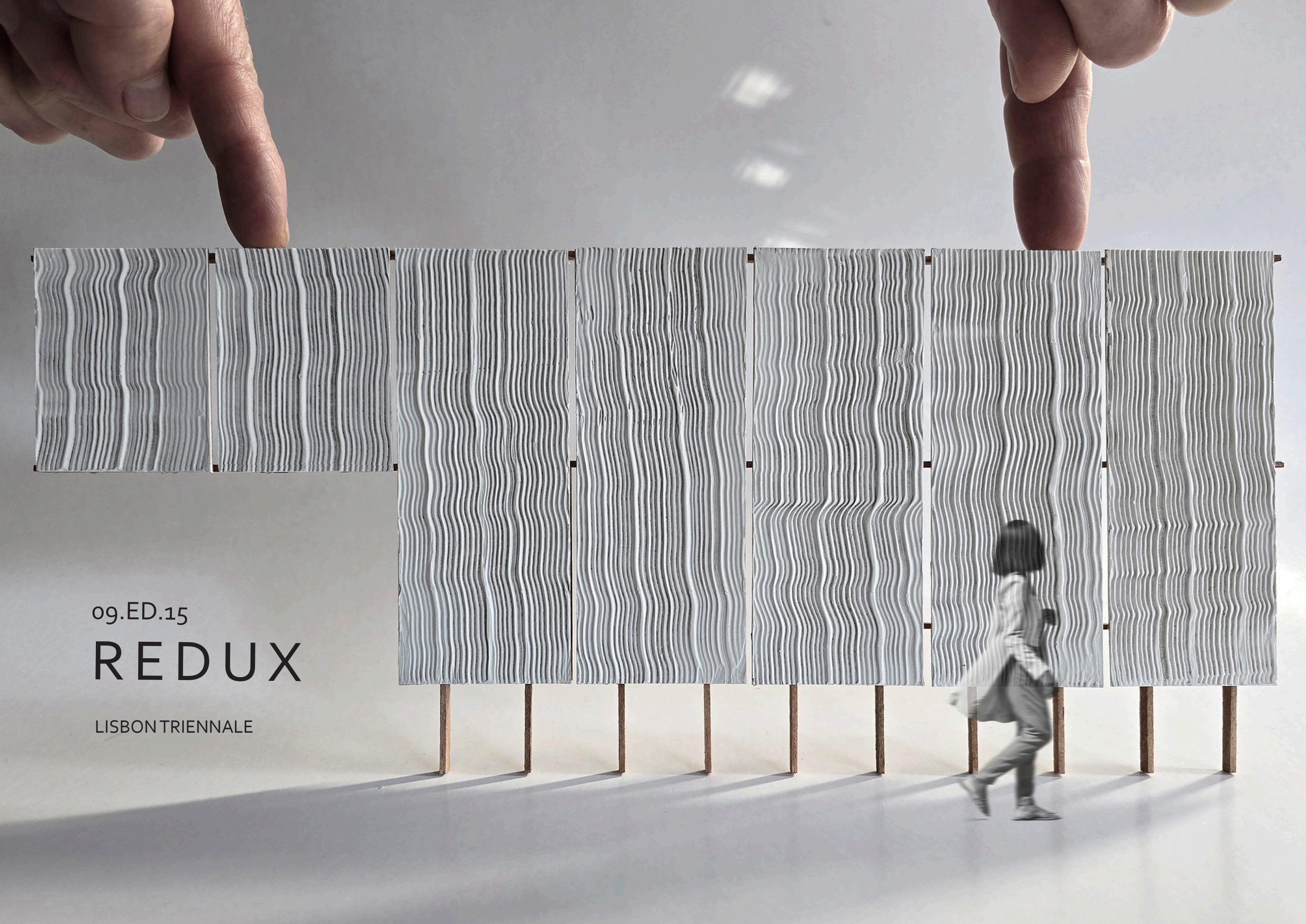


09.ED.15

REDUX

LISBON TRIENNALE



Introduction

The Lisbon Architecture Triennale is one of the world’s leading platforms for architectural work and experimentation. For its 2025 edition, themed **How Heavy is a City?**, only twenty independent projects were selected from all global submissions. Among them is REDUX, a proposal by Australian architects Besley & Spresser.

Besley & Spresser are an architecture studio known for working with materials from first principles - researching their cultural, environmental and architectural potential. Our recent work includes the Barangaroo Pier Pavilion on Sydney Harbour, a civic building clad in a terrazzo made from half a million recycled Sydney Rock Oyster shells. For **REDUX**, we turn our attention to asbestos.

In Australia, asbestos was once celebrated as a miracle material. It now constitutes a mounting environmental and social crisis. An estimated one in three homes built before 1990 contains asbestos. Many are now reaching end-of-life, with current protocols requiring the contaminated material to be buried in costly, toxic, space-intensive landfill. This approach is untenable.

New methods developed recently in Europe destroy asbestos fibres and recover circular, reactive calcium silicates for cement and concrete. These can be safely handled and used in architectural applications. **Our exhibition brings the potential of this process to public attention for the first time in architecture.** It asks: what if this reviled material could be reimagined, not as toxic waste, but as a resource and source of architectural potential?

REDUX comprises a built installation made from these asbestos-free building materials, alongside a body of research documenting the material’s legacy in Australian cities. It is both spatial and didactic: a direction for how the building industry can intervene.

The **REDUX** installation will be built in the courtyard of the **Palácio Sinel de Cordes**, the headquarters of the Lisbon Architecture Triennale. **It has the highest visibility of all installations at the Triennale.**

We are currently seeking sponsorship to support realisation of the exhibition in Lisbon this October - December. Details of each sponsorship tier and its associated benefits are outlined on the following pages.

What is offered is an opportunity to connect with a project at the forefront of progressive work in Australia’s building industry.



Associação Trienal de Arquitectura de Lisboa
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CONFIRMATION LETTER

To Whom It May Concern

Lisboa, 24 April 2025

The Lisbon Architecture Triennale is pleased to announce that the project **09.ED.15 REDUX**, by Jessica Spresser and Peter Besley has been selected as part of the central programme for our 7th edition, titled “How Heavy is a City?”.

For this programme, we invited agents who work in the field of architecture and related areas with independent projects of great relevance and value, thus representing a critical plural stage for the living cultural mechanisms of the city.

From around the world, we received a total of 76 self-funded projects that echo the theme of “How Heavy is a City?” and its subthemes *Fluxes*, *Spectres* and *Lighter*, and each one was carefully evaluated by the jury. The excellence of most of the applications - in terms of innovation, ingenuity, pertinence and passion for the project - made it hard for the jury to make the final selection.

We want to promote an independent, effervescent and diverse production on a global scale, including the selected proposals as part of the Triennale official programme, sharing the international stage with the central exhibitions that the event provides.

We therefore show our appreciation to any support and collaboration that will enable the feasibility of the project, which will be of the utmost importance for its implementation with the required quality and relevance.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.
Sincerely,

José Mateus,
President
president@trienaldelisboa.com

Theme

The exhibition installation for the 2025 Lisbon Architecture Triennale is titled “**09.ED.15 REDUX**”.

Traditionally “redux” refers to something brought back and given a new interpretation. Here we invoke redux in the realm of architecture: the transformation of the repudiated building material asbestos, mineral name “09.ED.15”.

Asbestos as a latent killer in buildings is now well understood. Less well known is that asbestos itself is a naturally occurring mineral, and that new processes have been discovered which dissolve it into harmless, carbon-negative minerals. Moreover, these end-products have material characteristics of their own with creative architectural potential.

Our proposed installation in Lisbon is about the material, and made of the material.*

Equally, the project is a narrative of people’s exploitative relationship with nature, of industrial hubris, and now one of a hard-won humility, learning, and finally of creative ambition.

The course of the narrative highlights the potential of the building industry to enact change, and of the innocent nature of materials in the first instance. Building industry materials are “friends or foes” of our making.

The exhibition proposal aligns with the Lisbon Triennale’s theme: **How Heavy is a City?** Asbestos, historically celebrated as a construction boon in the postwar era, has left a lasting and hazardous legacy in urban and suburban environments. Once ubiquitous in building, its remnants now burden cities globally, with structures reaching end-of-life and vast asbestos disposal sites marring city’s outskirts and posing significant environmental challenges.

Drawing inspiration from the Triennale’s focus themes of ‘Fluxes’, ‘Spectres’, and ‘Lighter’, the proposal offers a hopeful vision for transforming asbestos. Utilising new technologies, we envision a future where this material is not only made safe but is recycled and becomes carbon-negative, releasing contaminated sites and making valuable buildings made from asbestos.

*** NOTE**
No asbestos is proposed in the exhibition. All materials used are mineral end-products of an EU safety certified decomposition process by Asbeter of Rotterdam.



Asbestos. From the Ancient Greek *αβέστος*: "unquenchable", "inextinguishable"



1.

Elements of former asbestos by-products:

- 1 Panels of raked mineral render
- 2 Mineral ceramics glaze: developed by Benedetta Pompili, ph. courtesy of the designer
- 3 Masonry blocks: developed by AC Minerals



2.



3.

Exhibition

The **REDUX** exhibition installation will be approached in the following ways:

First, we will create a built architectural and spatial composition which will be installed in the courtyard of the **Palácio Sinel de Cordes** in Lisbon, Portugal. The primary material used to construct the installation is made of the neutralised by-product materials.*

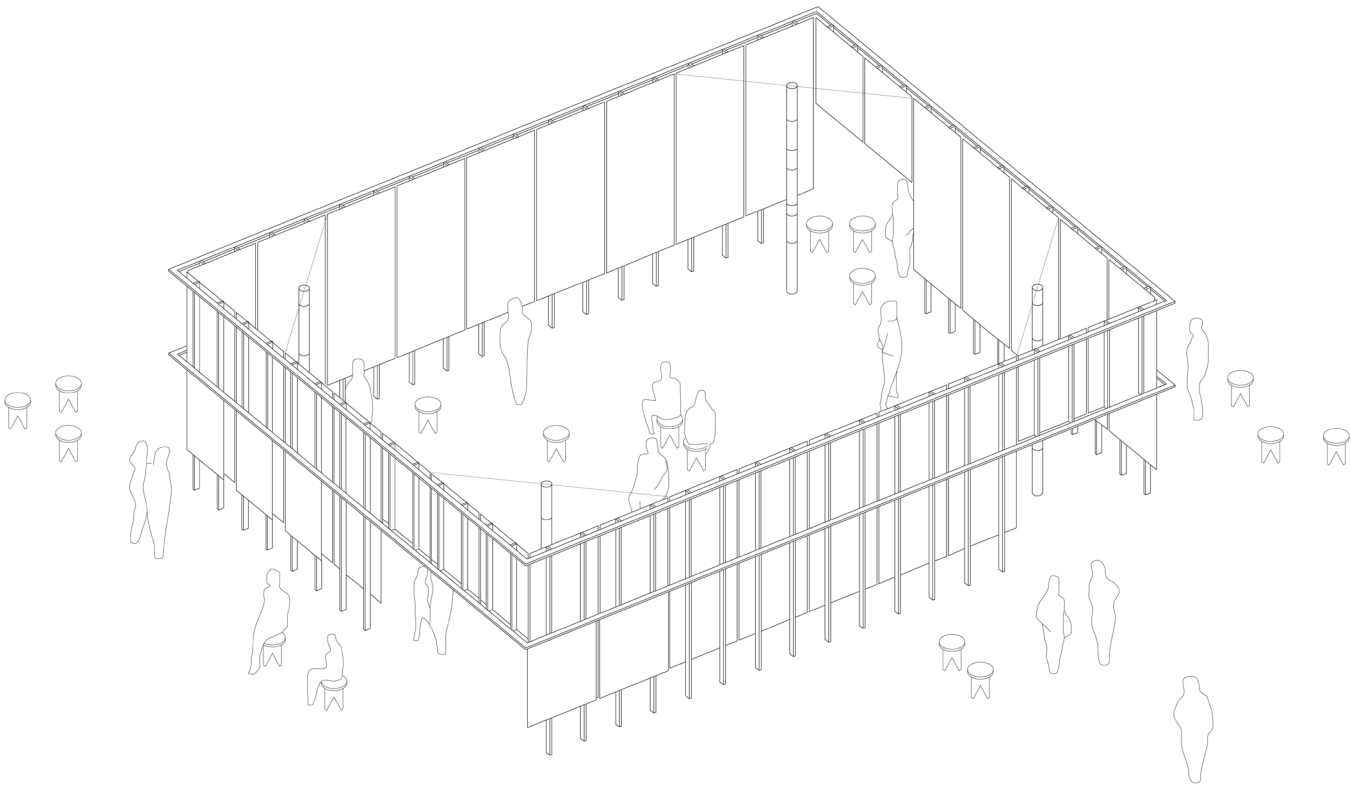
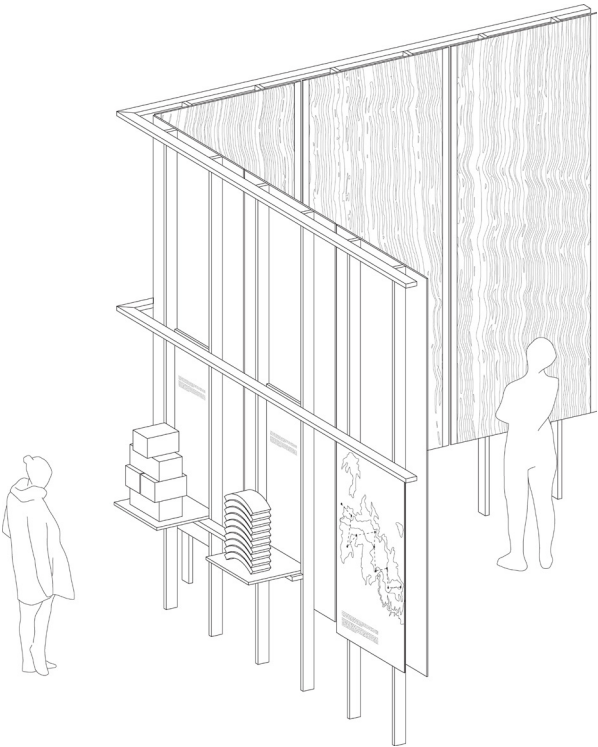
We will also present a body of research. Widely used from the mid-twentieth century, asbestos became a staple in construction worldwide due to its durability, fire resistance, and affordability. It was extensively employed in housing, resulting in the ubiquitous “fibro” homes that characterise postwar suburban expansion. However, the health effects of asbestos exposure have been severe and far-reaching. AI-assisted mapping shows a disturbing confluence of asbestos landfill and contaminated buildings, lower socio-economic status and culturally diverse communities.

Palácio Sinel de Cordes



As a point-case, the research will include an account of the Australian asbestos-fibro “belt” in Sydney.

Finally, the exhibition will detail the recent breakthroughs in asbestos treatment, how they work and are certified, and what the release of contaminated sites might mean for cities. This part of the exhibition will also explore the characteristics of the mineral end-products of the asbestos neutralising process, how these are beautiful and compelling materials in their own right, and how they are worthy of interest to the building industry.



Sponsorship

Why Sponsor REDUX?

Global Visibility: Part of the official programme of the Lisbon Architecture Triennale, a leading architecture event worldwide.

Innovation: Showcasing new material technologies with significant industry impact.

Sustainability Leadership: Engage with one of Europe and Australia’s most urgent environmental challenges—presented as an ambitious future vision.

Public Recognition: High-profile visibility online, in print, and in the media.

Thought Leadership: Connect with a project that situates the building industry as a catalyst for cultural and environmental change.

Tangible Legacy: The use of remediated asbestos material marks a turning point in how cities and the building industry think about toxicity and reuse.

How Sponsorship funding is used:

- **Materials:** Remediated Products, Structure, Finishes and Fixings
- **Fabrication and Installation**
- **Graphics:** Production and Printing
- **Research:** Display & Publication
- **Deinstallation:** Including Reuse Arrangements

Three Levels of Sponsorship:

\$10,000+ / € 5,500+

- Feature Listing: Logo and Marketing Description on Exhibition Website
- Logo and Title Text on Social Media releases
- Feature Listing: Logo and Marketing Description on Exhibition Publications
- Listing and Acknowledgement in News Press Releases
- Gift: A unique small Artefact made from Certified Asbeter Mineral By-products used in the Exhibition
- Invitation to opening events in Lisbon and any related events in Australia

\$5,000 / € 2,500

- Logo and Title Text on Exhibition Website
- Listing on Social Media releases
- Logo and Title Text on Exhibition Publications
- Listing and Acknowledgement in News Press Releases
- Gift: A unique small Artefact made from Certified Asbeter Mineral By-products used in the Exhibition

\$1,000 / € 500

- Listing on Exhibition Website
- Listing on Social Media releases
- Listing on Exhibition Publications



For further information or to discuss sponsorship options, please contact:

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Professional Team

BESLEY & SPRESSER

Besley & Spresser, Australia
Architects

besleyspresser.com

Besley & Spresser is a studio of architects based in Sydney. The practice delivers concept-driven architectural design for a variety of public and private clients. The practice's approach centres around crafting compelling architecture informed by research, with a particular interest in the exploration of materials. The work of the practice has been published widely in the architectural and mainstream press.

Benedetta Pompili Studio

Benedetta Pompili, Netherlands
Ceramics Designer

benedettapompili.com

Benedetta Pompili is a designer based in Amsterdam. She is founder of vuur collective, LINA fellow and among the care-takers of the ceramic workshop of Gerrit Rietveld Academie. A dedication to materials identifies her practice, intertwining the cultural background they carry, as well as their environmental impact.



AC Minerals Asbeter, Netherlands
Materials Scientists

acmineralsgroup.com

Asbeter of the Netherlands lead asbestos treatment processes globally. The materials shown in the Lisbon Architectural Triennale are cutting-edge and will be new to audiences, showing their adaptability and potential.



SDA Structures, Australia
Structural Engineers

sdastructures.com.au

SDA is a leading Sydney structural engineer, advising on exhibition construction. SDA specialise in the structural engineering design of highly detailed architectural public buildings and unique structural designs.



Barangaroo Pier Pavilion , 2025

Architects: Besley & Spresser
Structural Engineers: SDA Structures